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# Urban District of Kenilworth

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1953,

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

## Warwickshire Combined Districts

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Leamington Spa

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

1954



38, HOLLY WALK,  
LEAMINGTON SPA.

30th November, 1954.

**To the Kenilworth Urban District Council.**

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health of your district for 1953 which is my fourth annual report to you.

There has been an increase both in population and births and a fall in the death rate.

Progress has been made with the plans to modernize and enlarge the sewage disposal works and to provide relief drainage at the St. John's end of the town. These works are very necessary to cope with the rise in population and all the modern housing development which have outstripped the capacity which the existing system was designed to have. The route of the new sewer will be so chosen as to take in as much as possible of the property not now on the line of main drainage.

It will also be necessary to consider the town's future needs for water. The Council is most fortunate in having a source of good quality and yield but the demands upon this increase from year to year so that it will be prudent to plan soon for alternative sources to meet future expansion.

There was an outbreak of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) in the last quarter of the year, affecting five persons. This ended the district's remarkable freedom from this disease during the post-war period when several neighbouring districts have been affected. Details will be found in the body of the report.

As regards other matters in the report it will be noted that the number of Council houses completed in 1953 and 1952 was only about two-thirds of the total achieved in 1951. However the additional erection of 46 houses by private enterprise made 1953 one of the best years on record.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector shows that reasonable progress is being made towards production and handling of clean food in Kenilworth. It is customary in this regard to focus attention on the activities of the catering

trade. More attention ought to be given to the conditions in which food is kept and handled in the home; for example much of the patient effort devoted to the production of milk of greater purity and better keeping quality is nullified if bottles are left for hours on end on doorsteps, exposed to sun and animal pollution. In the same way there are many homes which do not have adequate facilities either for storage or cooking of food, so that here again full advantage will not be taken of progress in the food trades unless improvements can be made in many substandard homes.

In subsequent years opportunities will exist under new legislation, coming into force in 1954, to improve and modernize much of the substandard property in the town, and it is to be hoped that owners will take full advantage of grants which can benefit both their tenants and themselves.

I also wish to bring to the Council's notice the increased number of inspections and observations made during the year, as well as the fact that fewer informal notices were served and that it was necessary to issue nearly twice as many formal notices as in the previous year. The extra visits were concerned with drainage, temporary dwellings, refuse collection, Public Health Act housing inspections and verminous premises. This represents additional activity by the Sanitary Inspectors to which is being added in the current year a load of meat inspection far greater than has previously arisen. It will be necessary therefore for the Council to review closely the proportion of the time of their officers of the Health Department which can be fairly allocated to sanitary duties, if a considerable increase in sanitary inspection is arising without a corresponding increase in staff.

I wish in conclusion to thank the Council for their kind help and support and acknowledge the willing co-operation which I have received from your Clerk, Sanitary Inspectors and other officers of this Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## *Kenilworth Urban District*

### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1953	...	...	...	10,870
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	18.5
"                    "                    " (corrected)	...	...	...	18.0
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	...	11.1
"                    "                    " (corrected)	...	...	...	11.1
Deaths from Diseases and { From Sepsis	...	...	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and { From Other Causes	...	...	...	—
Child-birth				
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	39.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	40.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
"            "    Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
"            "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

The population has risen by 160 heads during the past year. The birth-rate is higher this year and above the level for England and Wales (15.5). Deaths are at 13.4 higher than the rate for England and Wales (11.3).

The infantile mortality rate for the whole country was 26.8 per 1,000 related live births but this year the local rate is well above this (39.6).

Eight infants died at age under one year, all within the four weeks immediately following birth.

Of five accidental or violent deaths three were due to suicide and one to a motor accident. The main causes of death followed the usual pattern. As regards the higher figure for infantile mortality, it will be realised that, where the population group at risk is small and the annual births number a few hundred births only, an increase of only two to three total infant deaths will, as happened this year, cause a marked rise in the rate. All these eight deaths occurred within the four weeks following birth. Four were due to cerebral haemorrhage, two to a congenital malformation, one to prematurity, and one to asphyxia following prolonged labour.

Statistics for England and Wales are shown at the foot of Table II.

## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. *Public Health Officers*.—The Staff is as follows :—  
One combined post.—Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

One additional Sanitary Inspector.

2. *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

			Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	—	3	3
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	—	10	10
Paratyphoid	...	...	—	1	1
					—
					14
					—

## C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply*.—The water supply for the area continues satisfactorily with three electrical borehole pumps at the Mill End Pumping Station giving continuous service and pumping sufficient water for the town's needs. The water is not chlorinated.

The whole of the pumping plant is well maintained, including the booster pump at Red Lane, and the whole of your plant has to deal with an ever increasing number of properties. Three-inch water main extensions have been laid at Lancaster Place, Rounds Hill, and Common Lane ; 4in. extensions at de Montfort Road, Amherst Road, Common Lane and Chestnut Avenue, and 6in. extensions in Oaks Road. Eight new metered services have been installed and 39 house services. Twenty-eight services were repaired, and there were also two water main repairs.

The service reservoirs have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

The water pumped totalled 136,813,040 gallons, giving an average of 374,830 gallons per day, as compared with 352,219 g.p.d. for the previous year, which shows an increase of nearly 7 per cent. It can be anticipated that this rate of increase will be accelerated during the next few years in view of the proposed developments in the district.

Eight specimens of raw water were taken for bacteriological analysis ; the results were satisfactory and showing a high standard of purity. A chemical analysis was taken in April, as follows :—

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE WATER.

					Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0	„
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0	„
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	2.5	„
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	0.4	„
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate					
at 80°F. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.002	„
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	35	„
Nitrite	...	...	...	0.0001	„
pH	...	...	...	7.8	„

Appearance : Bright, few small particles.

Practically the whole of the population has a piped water supply, and where such does not exist, samples of well water are taken as required for analysis.

2. *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.*—During the year 22 sewer stoppages were removed, and sewer flushing together with the relaying of some short lengths of sewer were necessary. Nine sewer connections were made, and the extension of the sewers to your Bulkington Estate was continued.

A new length of sewer was laid for the factory development in Dalehouse Lane.

At the Sewage Disposal Works the recent conversion of settling tanks into six hopper type has considerably facilitated the removal of sludge, and this has tended to improve the effluent. The amount of sludge now removed from the settling tanks is considerable and there is difficulty with the present earth lagoons in getting the sludge dried out.

The iron work to the syphon chambers at the Sewage Disposal Works has been renewed, and normal maintenance has continued.

The emptying of the road and street gullies is done quarterly by public contractor, and is being carried out satisfactorily. Where cesspools are in need of emptying, this work is also done by contract and is a matter of private negotiation as occasion demands.



3. *Rivers and Streams*.—All the water courses in the area have been cleansed, and several stretches have been frequently done.

4. *Public Cleansing*.—The collection of house refuse has been facilitated by the provision of an additional modern type refuse collecting vehicle. A regular weekly collection of refuse has been generally maintained by your two vehicles.

Refuse is tipped at the Brickworks site, off Whitemoor Road, which should be available for many more years for this purpose. Some nuisance arose but after the adoption of controlled methods the site gave reasonable satisfaction.

Street scavenging is being done by 4 workmen. This class of job does not attract modern labour and generally the work is carried out by older men. The existing facilities do not permit the extension of the scavenging area even though it is desirable that some roads should receive more frequent attention.

#### D. HOUSING.

	1953	1952	1951
Number of houses built by—			
(a) Local Authority ...	40	41	60
(b) Private Enterprise ...	46	24	9
Total number of completed houses			
owned by the Council ...	678	601	561
Total number of prefabricated houses			
owned by the Council ...	50	50	50
Houses converted into flats, maison-			
ettes, etc. into 2 houses ...	1	—	2
Number of demolition orders made	—	—	—
No. of unfit houses made fit :—			
(a) by Official Notices ...	13	6	—
(b) Informally ...	14	38	40

#### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The number of Registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations (1949 and 1953) is 12, of which 2 are Dairies and 10 Distributors of milk.

Five Supplementary and Five Dealers' Licences have been issued to sell Tuberculin Tested milk in the Urban District.

Five Supplementary and Five Dealers' Licences have been issued to sell Pasteurised milk in the Urban District.



The distribution of milk throughout the District is generally satisfactory. The milk is delivered to consumers in closed bottles, but is often left standing on doorsteps for much of the day. This is of course the householders' responsibility but there is a likelihood of spoilage in the sun or even of contamination by birds or dogs. One would like to see a closed container provided where the absence of householders means that the milk must be left on exposed doorsteps for hours on end.

(b) *Ice Cream*.—7 premises were registered during the year under Sec. 14 (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream. This brings the total of registered premises up to 42, of which 4 are for manufacture and sale, and 38 for the sale only of ice cream. At premises registered for manufacture the "cold mix" method is used in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952. Increasingly local manufacture is giving way to the sale of prepared ice cream distributed by the large manufacturing firms.

8 samples were submitted for Methylene Blue Test; the results of which showed 3 samples coming within Grade 1, 1 into Grade 2, 4 into Grade 3, and none in Grade 4. Too many samples are still falling within the lower grades, and satisfaction will not have been achieved until all ice cream produces a Grade 1 or 2 result. The results do not indicate that the bulk distribution method is inferior to local manufacture as poor samples often arise from faults in local handling or storage.

There are many small establishments throughout the District which have some difficulty in maintaining permanent staff. The training of staff to appreciate that they have an important role to play in the maintaining of good health in the public is a vital one, and progress is somewhat hampered by frequent changes in food handlers.

(c) *Meat*.—9 premises continue to be registered under Sec. 14 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The majority of the registrations are for the manufacture of sausages, and the work is carried out in rooms attached to butchers' shops which are suitable and satisfactory for this work.

All home killed meat entering the district comes from the slaughterhouse in Coventry where it receives thorough post-

mortem inspection to ensure that the meat is fit for human consumption. Such inspections are carried out by the Meat Inspectors of Coventry, and it is to their credit that it is very infrequent indeed to find any unfit lesion in meat sold in the Kenilworth shops. When unfit conditions are found the lesions responsible are deep seated and could not reasonably be suspected or found when the carcass was being inspected in the slaughterhouse, prior to cutting up into small joints.

Conditions in the transporation of meat have not changed during the year. Vehicles have been found in a reasonably satisfactory state of cleanliness, but they can quickly become unclean on days when there is inclement weather. Home killed meat is conveyed in the hanging position inside the vehicle without any means of protection other than the vehicle itself. Imported meat is, however, first protected by a covering of muslin cloth. No complaints have been received during the year of carcasses being soiled during transit.

(d) *Other Trades*.—Communal feeding throughout the country has increased considerably in the last 15 years which has had a marked effect on the incidence of food poisoning. In Kenilworth no outbreaks of this illness have been reported during 1953. This indicates that the preparation and handling of food is carried out with care.

## F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1946.*

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1946	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	...	5	20	—	9	—	1
1947	...	—	19	—	2	—	—
1949	...	6	6	—	4	—	—
1950	...	2	9	1	5	—	1
1951	...	1	17	—	68	—	—
1952	...	—	10	—	10	—	—
1953	...	—	1	1	3	5	—

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1953.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—The figures were :—

	1952	1953
Schoolchildren ... ..	8	10
Infants and children under 5 years ... ..	130	102
Total ...	138	112
Booster doses (all ages) ... ..	176	44

The above figures include all notifications, whether the immunisation was performed by the family doctor or at a clinic, infant welfare centre, etc.

The percentage protected during the first year of life is still much below the desired minimum of 75 per cent. The main emphasis of the campaign is the personal approach by doctors, nurses, teachers and others rather than by formal advertising and distribution of leaflets, etc. at random.

However there was a break in the work of immunisation during the autumn on account of the prevalence of Anterior Poliomyelitis locally. This will account for the reduction in numbers immunised.

*Anterior Poliomyelitis.*—Kenilworth had since the war not experienced this disease in spite of its prevalence during some of those years in neighbouring districts. However in 1953 this good record came to an end with the notification of five confirmed cases within the urban district. During the earlier part of the summer an outbreak was reported from the City of Coventry and during July and August, 1953, a number of cases arose in Warwick and Leamington Spa and the surrounding rural districts. Kenilworth was not affected until towards the end of October when two paralytic cases were found: there was an interval of twelve days between the onset of the first and the second but no definite connection was proved. About one month later the child of a hotel worker fell a victim to the complaint and within three weeks the fourth case (apparently unconnected) was reported from an isolated farm near the district boundary. Some three weeks later the husband of Case 4 also contracted the disease. All the five patients had some paralysis and were removed to hospital for treatment; there were no deaths.



*Enteric Fever.*—One notification of Paratyphoid Fever was received concerning a local resident. Enquiries however made it appear certain that the infection had somehow been acquired during a stay in the Isle of Wight.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...		10	4	1	—	1	—	—	—

14 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and 1 death occurred. Six persons received innoculations of B.C.G. vaccine.

*Tuberculosis.*—The following table shews the cases notified, and deaths for the past 20 years :—

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Cases		6	10	10	10	9	10
Deaths		8	5	5	4	4	4
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases	19	14	11	9	10	9	9
Deaths	4	8	5	2	3	1	3
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Cases	4	11	14	3	3	13	15
Deaths	6	2	3	—	3	2	1

*Treatment.*—13 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium for treatment during the year, and 9 were discharged.

The Coventry Mass Radiography Unit of the Birmingham Hospital Region paid a visit to Kenilworth from May 27th to June 8th. Although this coincided with Coronation celebrations there was a good response. Dr. A. Gordon Evans, Medical Director, has kindly supplied the following figures :—

Persons examined—Male	...	685
Female	...	987
<hr/>		
Total	...	1,582
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#### *Cases of Tuberculosis*

(a)	Referred to Chest Physician—Active	...	3*		
	—Inactive	...	1		
(b)	Referred to own doctor	—Inactive	...	5	
(c)	No action necessary	...	...	...	24

#### *Other Abnormalities*

(d)	Referred to Hospital	...	...	...	1
(e)	Referred to own doctor	...	...	...	5
(f)	No action	...	...	...	24

The visit was arranged in co-operation with the local health and education departments. Parties were sent from senior schools and also certain selected junior pupils attended. This selection was made by preliminary Mantoux tests at school of pupils aged 8—11 years. Those who reacted positively were offered X-ray appointments. Some 22 per cent. of junior schoolchildren tested were positive reactors to the skin test. Most of these were submitted to X-ray by their parents who had previously received a personal call by the Health Visitor. Approximately 10 per cent. of parents approached declined to give consent for Mantoux testing. The above findings closely parallel those in other local districts.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

No cases were reported as requiring observation this year.

### **REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Kenilworth Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my 17th Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1953,

In view of the gradually increasing development taking place in the district there has naturally been a corresponding increase in the work of the department, which has been accentuated somewhat by the continued appearance of new legislation. There is the additional tendency for more building activity, and the district seems to be gaining in popularity as a residential one. In addition there has been the erection of small modern factories in Dalehouse Lane.

Many of the older houses in the town are still without modern facilities in the way of separate W.C.s, taps and bathrooms, and it does appear that the time is not very far distant when the survey of such properties will have to be completed. Kenilworth is fortunate in not having a very large number of houses which come under the category of slum property, but there are a large number of the type previously referred to.

Additional work has been carried out during the year under the Shops Act, 1950, and the general standard of inspections of all types from the public health aspect has been maintained.

House refuse collection is still increasing in proportion as a problem to the population growth. This, as you are well aware, is partly due to the length of carry incurred by modern house development. You now have two vehicles on this class of work and the latest acquisition with the compressing type of equipment has proved of great use. Disposal has needed continuous supervision to avoid a nuisance being created, and additional expenditure has been involved to this end.

New development brings with it a greater rate of water consumption, and a subsequent greater flow to be dealt with by the town sewers. These are adequate in parts, and where surcharge has occurred, should be relieved by the new scheme which it is proposed to bring into operation.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Committee for their co-operation and help during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,  
Sanitary Inspector.

### **Nuisances.**

Notices were served in respect of 147 defects and nuisances, details of which are set out in Table 1.

The enforcement of house repairs has been carried out by using the provisions contained in the Public Health Act, 1936. There are limitations in using this procedure however, and it is anticipated that extended use of the Housing Act, 1936, will shortly be made for the securing of house repairs. For the last 15 years privately owned houses have not generally received the measure of maintenance which is so essential to keep the dwellings in a fit state of habitation, and this has an ultimate effect on the housing policy of the Council.

Insanitary houses will have to be demolished, and I would suggest that the time has now arrived for a commencement to be made in removing unfit property. Houses scheduled for demolition before the war are still occupied and the occupants are still having to tolerate conditions which are prejudicial to their health.



### **Infectious Diseases.**

Details of the cases of infectious disease notified during 1953 are dealt with in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

Enquiries were made into 1 case of scarlet fever, 4 cases of poliomyelitis, and a further case of poliomyelitis which was diagnosed in another area but which appeared to have been contracted in Kenilworth. 3 of the poliomyelitis cases were removed to hospital and the remaining case was treated at home.

The incidence of scarlet fever appears to be again on the decline. Only 1 case was notified during 1953, and this is the lowest recorded figure since the year 1919. This is all the more remarkable considering the increase in the population since that date when it was estimated at 6,500. It is also worthy of mention again that the scarlet fever met with today is not of a very virulent type, and resort to hospital isolation is not often made.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The visiting of cases of tuberculosis is carried out by the County Council's Tuberculosis Health Visitors.

Disinfectant continued to be provided to persons suffering from this disease, but little use of this facility has been made during the year. The strict administration of current disinfection by tuberculous persons is so essential in minimising the risk of spreading the disease to others. Your free provision of disinfectant enables such disinfection to be carried out if done conscientiously.

### **Disinfection of Premises.**

During the year disinfection was carried out in 7 instances. The majority of these disinfections were carried out after death or removal to sanatorium of tuberculous patients.

3 lots of bedding were destroyed at the request of owners. It has not been found necessary to carry out steam disinfection during the year in connection with cases of notifiable disease.

The value of terminal disinfection has long been debated, and the public do now generally recognise that they can by their own efforts secure satisfactory conditions in their homes.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Notices were served in respect of 21 defects in house drainage during the year.

The continued expansion of the town by the provision of new houses increases the number of public sewers to be maintained and adds to the already present problem of sewage disposal at your works which are overloaded and accordingly not capable of treating the sewage adequately.

### **Public Cleansing and Salvage.**

The collection of house refuse has continued satisfactorily during the year. The regularity of a weekly collection has been maintained except during periods of very inclement weather. The work involved increases each week as each newly built house becomes occupied, but the frequency of collection has not suffered in spite of the increased number of bins to be emptied. This has been possible mainly by the

provision of a new vehicle which you purchased during the year. This vehicle is capable of holding a greater capacity of house refuse than the vehicles previously being used and this does reduce the number of journeys made to the refuse tip in each day. The vehicle is proving satisfactory in that it is specially designed for the transport of a large quantity of house refuse in a sanitary manner, and is properly equipped for carrying the men safely to their work.

Commencing on 1st April, 1953, you undertook the supplying and maintenance of dustbins throughout the district in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 75 (3), Public Health Act, 1936, at an annual charge of 5s. for each bin so provided. A total of 98 bins were provided under the scheme during the 9 months ending 31st December, 1953.

The refuse tip in Whitemoor Road has continued to be used for the disposal of refuse. Nuisance was experienced from fire during the summer months but this was satisfactorily overcome. The tipping is now being proceeded with at the bottom of the pit and no further recurrence of this nuisance is anticipated.

### **Shops.**

A commencement has been made with a survey of the shops in the district to ensure that the requirements of the Shops Act, 1950, have been carried out. The Act provides for a standard to be maintained to ensure the health and comfort of shop assistants. The survey so far shows that conditions are generally satisfactory. There are few shops which employ any substantial number of assistants and accordingly the provisions of the Act do not apply in a great many instances.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

Atmospheric pollution is not one of the problems of this town due to its mainly residential character. There are, however, a few industrial chimneys which have to be observed to ensure that pollution does not become excessive.

One factory is experimenting with the use of liquid fuel, and whilst some nuisance has been created by the effluent gases there has been an elimination of smoke from the plant. Upon representations being made by you the factory took steps to discharge the effluent gases at a greater height in the air.

### **Open Air Bathing Pool.**

The open-air swimming Pool was opened on Saturday, 16th May, and closed on the 19th September. During this period the recorded attendances were as follows, together with previous comparisons:—

			1953	1952	1951
Adults	...	...	6,275	6,543	6,677
Children	...	...	9,011	9,373	10,019
Spectators	...	...	3,140	2,759	3,336

One specimen of water was analysed and found satisfactory. The baths were properly maintained during the period.

### **Verminous Premises.**

The supplies of modern types of insecticides have reduced the incidence of verminous premises very considerably. The insecticides

are abundantly available ; easy in application ; effective over long periods, and relatively cheap. Requests for assistance in the eliminating of persistent infestations are decreasing, and the number of premises found infested are likewise also reduced.

Two premises did receive attention by your officers during the year. A man and his clothing was found infested by lice. He received treatment in hospital whilst his clothing and bedding were steam disinfected and his room disinfected. One house was treated for infestation by bed bugs and it is satisfactory to note that no evidence of vermin could be found some months after the treatment had taken place even though the original infestation had been very heavy.

### Food and Food Preparing Premises.

(a) *Milk*.—There has been no change in the methods employed for the distribution of milk during the year. All vehicles are petrol or electrically driven, but it is still observed that some vehicles are not yet covered to protect the milk from the direct rays of the sun and from contamination.

All milk retailed is contained in closed bottles, and it is pleasing to note that the number of complaints of dirty bottles is diminishing. Whilst returnable milk bottles are continued to be used there is always the possibility of an unfit bottle being undetected and remaining in circulation. The adoption of the non-returnable container would seem to be a field of activity for the dairymen to explore in the future.

3 Distributors of milk were Registered during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. A total of 12 Distributors and 2 Dairies are now Registered under the Regulations. All the milk which is sold is Designated milk, and it is anticipated that the district will become part of a Specified Area under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 at an early date.

The following Licences to sell Designated milk have been issued :—

*Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	5
Dealers' Licences (Tuberculin Tested) ...	5

*Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)*

*Milk Regulations, 1949.*

Supplementary Licences (Pasteurised) ...	5
Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised) ...	5

(b) *Ice Cream*.—7 applications were received during the year for the Registration of premises to sell prepacked ice cream, which were granted. 4 premises are now registered for manufacture and sale, and 38 for the sale only of ice cream under Sec. 14 (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The results of 8 samples taken for examination were as follows :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	3
Grade 2	...	...	...	1
Grade 3	...	...	...	4
Grade 4	...	...	...	0

It is still found that insufficient care is being taken in the sterilizing of serving equipment. This does have a definite effect on the bacterio-



logical condition of ice cream. Traders are constantly being advised on the procedure to adopt to ensure that their product remains in the best possible condition.

The majority of the ice cream sold in the district is prepacked, and this does eliminate any possible contamination from serving equipment. It is, however, disturbing to find that prepacked ice cream does not always come within Grades 1 or 2 upon examination.

(c) *Meat and Meat Products.*—The slaughtering of animals for human consumption continues to be centralised, and all meat in the District comes from the Coventry slaughterhouse. Very few complaints have been received during the year of unfitness in any meat in the area.

There is always the dangerous possibility of unfit food being consumed whilst the practice continues of pigs being reared and slaughtered on householder's own premises for their own consumption. These pigs receive no inspection for fitness as it is not a statutory obligation for their owners to notify their intention to slaughter the animals. It has been observed that often the work of slaughtering these animals is done under bad conditions with little or no regard for arrangements to be made for securing sanitary and hygienic practices.

Frequent inspections of the vehicles delivering meat to the town have been made, and generally the conditions have been found to be satisfactory. During inclement weather, however, the vehicles do become quickly soiled as a result of the hauliers having to get into and out of their vehicle at every point of delivery.

4 premises remain licensed as Private Slaughterhouses, but no slaughtering was carried out in them during the year. 10 Renewals of Licence to slaughter or stun animals were granted during the year under Sec. 3, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale under Sec. 14 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1938, continues to total 9. The registrations are chiefly for sausage making which is done in suitable premises attached to butchers' shops.

(d) *Other Food Preparing Premises.*—The catering establishments have continued to be visited as frequently as possible. The premises are generally of fairly satisfactory construction but some establishments have sacrificed kitchen space in order to increase seating capacity in the dining rooms. This does not facilitate the work in the kitchen and permit it to be carried out under the most congenial conditions. Many of the existing establishments have no room to expand further and thus provide all the facilities that one would wish to see in these premises. Sanitary accommodation for persons of both sexes frequenting the premises cannot possibly be provided in some establishments.

A good standard in the structural conditions of these establishments must be maintained to produce a clean food. Those handling the food must be constantly conscious of their responsibility in ensuring that the food which they handle remains in a safe state for human consumption.

### Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-50.

The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for the sampling of food and submitting the samples taken to the Public Analyst for examination for quality. The following are the sampling figures for the last 5 years :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Informal Milk Samples ...	—	12	—	—	18
Formal Milk Samples ...	47	52	39	17	34
Informal other foods samples	28	1	1	12	5
Formal other foods samples	10	8	1	11	11

### Unfit Food.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Various Foods in Tins ...	283 tins
Various Foods in Jars ...	112 jars
Cooked Ham ...	133 lbs. 6 ozs.
Sausage ...	83 lbs. 8 ozs.
Black Puddings ...	14 lbs.
Corned Beef ...	12 lbs.
Cheese ...	247 portions
Cream Crackers ...	86 packets
Suet ...	5 packets
Grape Nuts ...	3 packets
Quaker Oats ...	3 packets
Shredded Wheat ...	1 packet
Pudding Mixture ...	1 packet
Sweets ...	1 packet
Mint Sauce ...	2 bottles
Sauce ...	2 bottles
Mock Halibut ...	2 stones
Camembert Cheese ...	2 boxes
Eggs ...	36
Chickens ...	12
Jellies ...	4
Pork Pies ...	2
Cakes ...	2

The goods were all destroyed on your refuse tip.

### Factories.

There are 59 factories on the Register which can be sub-divided into 54 power factories and 5 non-power factories. The big majority of these factories are very small in character and employ a small number of employees. It is generally found that the smaller the factory the poorer is the sanitary accommodation provided.

An opportunity is now provided in ensuring that newly built factories do have a good standard of accommodation right from the commencement of their occupation. Some factories are so situated, however, that they have not access to a sewer and thus have to rely on the use of chemical closets. Whilst these can be considered satisfactory if used with intelligent care and proper maintenance they can never be so satisfactory as a water carriage system.

3 outworkers were notified during the year under Sec. 110, Factories Act, 1937. The work which is carried out is done under satisfactory home conditions, and no case of infectious disease occurred in any of the houses during the year.

#### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

One of your men has continued to work part-time on Rodent Control work, and he has conformed to the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of methods of treatment.

The Act does require that a substantial amount of time has to be spent not only on destroying rats where they are known to exist, but also in searching for them in a systematic manner and treating areas as a whole.

Rodents are a menace to health, and the damage which they cause involves the loss of considerable amounts of foodstuffs. I feel that the problem of exterminating these rodents is a national one and should be tackled from this aspect. Sporadic treatments prove to be only a palliative in those areas alone, and reinfestation can quickly recur.

Some 328 premises were visited during the year on this work and 96 premises received treatments.

Your refuse tip and sewage works have received treatments periodically throughout the year. The refuse tip became seriously infested by rats during the autumn months, and the work of destruction was handicapped by the lack of adequate labour and the difficult contours of the infested area. The use of Warfarin as a new poison has been of great advantage and proved an invaluable addition to the Rodent Operator's equipment.

The sewerage system was treated on 2 occasions in the year and a small amount of infestation found. The portions of sewers where infestation might most probably be found is now well known and can be treated accordingly. The position is, however, that there is little infestation due to the smallness of the sewers which run at full bore during periods of heavy rainfall.

#### **New Buildings.**

- 167 Houses and Bungalows.
- 6 Estate Layouts.
- 28 Additions and Extensions.
- 93 Garages.
- 5 Caravans.
- 2 Workshops.
- 10 Outbuildings.
- 5 New shop fronts.
- 1 School.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,  
Sanitary Inspector.



**TABLE I**  
**KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT**  
**SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1953.**

				Inspections and observations made	Notices served and complied with			
					In-formal	In-formal abated	Formal	Formal abated
GENERAL SANITATION.	{	Water Supply	...	14	4	—	—	—
		Drainage	...	72	21	16	3	3
		Stables and Piggeries	...	18	3	3	—	—
		Fried Fish Shops	...	2	—	—	—	—
		Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	51	—	—	—	—
		Factories	...	16	6	3	—	—
		Outworkers	...	3	—	—	—	—
		Bakehouses	...	5	1	1	—	—
		Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	1	—	—	—	—
		Refuse Collection	...	200	7	7	—	—
		Refuse Disposal	...	3	1	1	—	—
		Rats and Mice	...	127	2	2	—	—
		Smoke Observations	...	4	1	1	—	—
		Shops Acts	...	19	1	1	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	12	—	—	—	—		
HOUSING.	{	UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :						
		No. of houses inspected	...	76	76	41	25	21
		Visits paid to above houses	...	255				
		UNDER HOUSING ACTS :						
		No. of houses inspected	...	4	3	—	—	—
		Visits paid to above houses	...	4				
		OVERCROWDING :						
		No. of houses inspected	...	3	—	—	—	—
		Visits paid to above houses	...	3				
		VERMINOUS PREMISES :						
		No. of houses inspected	...	16	2	1	1	1
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	{	Visits paid to above houses	...	28				
		Council Houses inspected	...	43	—	—	—	—
		Applicants for Housing Accommodation	...	38				
		Miscellaneous	...	1	—	—	—	—
		INSPECTION OF MEAT :						
		Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	5				
		Visits to other Premises	...	2				
		VISITS TO :						
		Butchers	...	10	—	—	—	—
		Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	2	—	—	—	—
		Grocers	...	21	4	3	—	—
		Greengrocers and Fruiters	...	4	1	1	—	—
		Dairies and Milkshops	...	6	2	2	—	—
		Ice-Cream Premises	...	26	3	2	—	—
		Food Preparing Premises	...	36	7	5	—	—
		Restaurants	...	9	2	1	—	—
		Street Vendors and Hawkers						
		Carts	...	1	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	...	1	—	—	—	—		
Miscellaneous	...	1	—	—	—	—		
				1142	147	91	29	25

	No.
Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food	27
Seizure of Unsound Food	—
Samples of Ice-Cream taken for Examination	8
Samples of Well Water taken for Examination	1

**PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	6
Visits re disinfection	5
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	10
Houses disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	7
Schools disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	—
Lots of Bedding steam disinfected or destroyed	3
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	—
Convictions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	—
Prosecutions for failure to notify existence of Infectious Disease	—
Convictions for failure to notify existence of Infectious Disease	—

G. A. J. EDMUNDSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

NOTE.—This Table takes into no account a number of Notices served during 1952, which were complied with during 1953. The Table, however, does include Notices served during 1953, but which were not complied with at the end of the year.

TABLE II.

KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1953 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1946	9,690	184	19.1	9	49	99	10.2
1947	9,780	211	21.6	11	52	101	10.3
1948	10,160	213	21.0	4	19	85	8.4
1949	10,230	195	19.0	9	46	107	10.5
1950	10,550	148	14.0	2	13	94	8.9
1951	10,610	170	16.0	7	41	127	12.0
1952	10,710	177	16.5	3	17	144	13.4
1953	10,870	202	18.5	8	39.6	121	11.1

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1953.*  
*(Provisional Figures).*

				Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.		Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
				Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales	...	...	15.5	0.35	11.4	26.8	
160 Great Towns, including London			17.0	0.43	12.2	30.8	
160 Smaller Towns	...	...	15.7	0.34	11.3	24.3	
London	...	...	17.5	0.38	12.5	24.8	

TABLE III.

## KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumonia ... ..	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..	5	.....	2	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	51	6	16	27	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles ... ..	20	2	12	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	14	.....	1	1	2	5	5	.....	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals ... ..	96	8	29	38	3	10	6	2	5



TABLE IV.  
KENILWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis respiratory ... ..	1	—
2 Tuberculosis other ... ..	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—
4 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5 Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8 Measles ... ..	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	—	—
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	—
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms ... ..	9	8
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—
16 Diabetes ... ..	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	7
18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..	10	5
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	4
20 Other heart disease ... ..	18	9
21 Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	3
22 Influenza ... ..	1	1
23 Pneumonia ... ..	—	4
24 Bronchitis ... ..	1	1
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	—
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—
31 Congenital malformations ... ..	—	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	6
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	1
34 All other accidents ... ..	1	2
35 Suicide ... ..	1	2
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes ... ..	64	57









